

Members

Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chair
Rep. Robert Alderman
Rep. Cleo Duncan
Rep. Dennie Oxley
Sen. Kent Adams
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker
Sen. Connie Sipes
Hugh Beebe
Michael Carmin
Nan Daley
Herb Grulke
Donna Ott
Becky Zaseck



INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 31, 2000
Meeting Time: 11:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 5

Members Present: Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chair; Rep. Dennie Oxley; Rep. Robert Alderman; Rep. Cleo Duncan; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Hugh Beebe; Nan Daley; Herb Grulke; Donna Ott; Becky Zaseck.

Members Absent: Sen. Kent Adams; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Sen. Connie Sipes; Michael Carmin.

I. Call to Order

Representative Summers, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 a.m., and introduced Kathleen Gifford, Director, Medicaid, Family and Social Services Administration.

II. Coverage of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) under Medicaid and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)

Kathleen Gifford, Director, Medicaid, Family and Social Services Administration addressed the Commission and stated that there are two possible avenues through which ABA services could be defrayed. They are as follows: 1) The Autism Waiver Program; and 2) Medicaid funding via EPSDT. Ms. Gifford testified to the following:

Autism Waiver Program

- Funding of ABA services could be accomplished more realistically via the Autism Waiver Program than via Medicaid dollars through EPSDT.
- Services provided through ABA could possibly be redefined as “habilitative” rather than

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

- “educational” with approval by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) in order to allow funding via the Autism Waiver Program.
- It is possible that HCFA would not object to such a scenario.

EPSDT

- Funding of ABA services via Medicaid through EPSDT screening is a complicated process.
- Certain states (like Wisconsin) have adopted eligibility categories in their respective Medicaid plans for children who meet Social Security Insurance (SSI) disability standards.
- Children with a disability severe enough to qualify under SSI, can be covered under Medicaid for ABA services through Wisconsin's eligibility category if their EPSDT evaluation indicates a need for ABA services.
- Wisconsin is currently re-thinking its position on this method of funding for various reasons.

III. Legislation Recommended For Introduction

The Chair asked that Legislative Services Agency distribute the following bill drafts to Commission members for discussion and potential recommendation for introduction (final votes were taken for each bill draft).

1) PD 3453 - Autism Waiver Funding

PD 3453 (Exhibit #1) appropriates to the office of Medicaid Policy and Planning from the State General Fund an amount sufficient for use in funding an increase in the number of eligible individuals served under the Medicaid autism waiver.

The above bill draft was voted to be placed in the minutes as a recommendation for introduction by the Commission.

Final Vote: 10-0

2) PD 3452 - Developmentally Disabled Client Services Funding

PD 3452 (Exhibit #2) provides that money remaining in the Developmentally Disabled Client Services Account or any other State account or fund used to serve individuals with developmental disabilities does not revert to the State General Fund at the end of a State fiscal year.

The above bill draft was voted to be placed in the minutes as a recommendation for introduction by the Commission.

Final Vote: 10-0

3) PD 3518 - Insurance Coverage for Autism

PD 3518 (Exhibit #3) defines pervasive developmental disorders, including Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, as neurological conditions for purposes of coverage under group health insurance and group health maintenance organization contracts. It requires group health insurers and group health maintenance organization contracts that provide basic health care services to offer to provide coverage for treatment of a pervasive developmental disorder of an individual covered under the plan.

The above bill draft was voted to be placed in the minutes as a recommendation for introduction by the Commission.

Final Vote: 10-0

4) PD 3517 - State Health Plan Coverage for Autism

PD 3517 (Exhibit #4) defines pervasive developmental disorders, including Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, as neurological conditions for purposes of coverage under group insurance for State employees. It requires that group insurance for State employees must provide coverage for treatment of a pervasive developmental disorder of an individual covered under the plan.

The above bill draft was voted to be placed in the minutes as a recommendation for introduction by the Commission.

Final Vote: 10-0

5) PD 3614 - Autism Waiver Amendments

PD 3614 (Exhibit #5) requires the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning to amend the autism waiver to provide coverage for applied behavior analysis treatment. It appropriates from the State General Fund an amount sufficient to increase the number of individuals served under the Medicaid autism waiver.

The above bill draft was voted to be placed in the minutes as a recommendation for introduction by the Commission.

Final Vote: 10-0

IV. Final Business

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:30 pm.